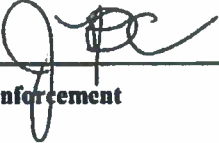



F R O M	Name & Title	Jill P. Carter, Director 	CITY OF BALTIMORE MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Office of Civil Rights & Wage Enforcement 7 E. Redwood Street, 9th Floor		
	Subject	Re: Labor and Employment - City Minimum Wage City Council Bill No.: 17-0018		

To: Dear President and Members of the Baltimore City Council **Date:** February 24, 2017

The Baltimore City Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement (OCRWE) appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on the above referenced bill and how its passage might impact on wage enforcement.

The Wage Commission enforces prevailing and living wage laws paid on contracts within the city of Baltimore. Enforcement includes manual review of certified payrolls followed by investigation for misclassification and overtime if a discrepancy is determined. In addition to review of certified payrolls, the Wage Commission also investigates complaints from individuals that believe they are paid unfair wages.

The Wage Commission does not currently enforce the minimum wage law. The enforcement agency for minimum wage compliance is the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR). If the above referenced bill were passed, enforcement of the minimum wage law would return to the OCRWE. This would cause a substantial increase in the number of investigations and thus require a substantial increase in the number of wage compliance officers (investigators).

Since DLLR currently handles all minimum wage cases that arise in Baltimore City, OCRWE refers all complaints to DLLR. At present, this is approximately twenty (20) complaints each month. OCRWE staff for the Wage Commission consists of four (4) full and part-time employees: one full-time Compliance Officer II; one full-time Compliance Officer I; one part-time contractual file clerk, and one administrative coordinator that does not conduct investigations. The current cases load warrants at least two (2) additional full-time compliance officers in order to ensure contractor compliance with living wage and prevailing wage laws.

Therefore, the minimum wage increase would warrant no less than 4-5 additional compliance officers to monitor wage compliance and conduct investigations.

We look forward to continued discussions on the Baltimore City Minimum Wage Law and how our office might assist with its enforcement.

Comments

